St. John's College Great Books Reading List

St. John's College was founded in 1696 and is the third oldest college in the United States.

Following are the books on which the St. John's program is based. The great books curriculum at St. John's includes works in philosophy, literature, political science, psychology, classics, history, religion, economics, math, chemistry, physics, biology, astronomy, music, language, and more.

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Freshman Year Reading List

Homer:	*Iliad, Odyssey*
Aeschylus:	*Agamemnon, Libation Bearers, Eumenides, Prometheus Bound*
Sophocles:	*Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone, Philoctetes, Ajax*
Thucydides:	*Peloponnesian War*
Euripides:	*Hippolytus, Bacchae*
Herodotus:	*Histories*
Aristophanes:	*Clouds*
Plato:	*Meno, Gorgias, Republic, Apology, Crito, Phaedo, Symposium, Parmenides, Theaetetus, Sophist, Timaeus, Phaedrus*
Aristotle:	*Poetics, Physics, Metaphysics, Nicomachean Ethics, On Generation and Corruption, Politics, Parts of Animals, Generation of Animals*
Euclid:	*Elements*
Lucretius:	*On the Nature of Things*
Plutarch:	"Lycurgus," "*Solon*"
Ptolemy:	*Almagest*
Pascal:	*Treatise on the Equilibrium of Liquids*
Nicomachus:	*Arithmetic*
Lavoisier:	*Elements of Chemistry*
Harvey:	*Motion of the Heart and Blood*
Essays by:	Archimedes, Fahrenheit, Avogadro, Dalton, Cannizzaro, Virchow, Mariotte, Driesch, Gay-Lussac, Spemann, Stears, J.J. Thomson, Mendeleyev, Berthollet, J.L. Proust

Sophomore Year Reading List

Hebrew Bible	
New Testament	
Aristotle:	*De Anima, On Interpretation, Prior Analytics, Categories*
Apollonius:	*Conics*
Virgil:	*Aeneid*
Plutarch:	"Caesar," "Cato the Younger," "Antony," "Brutus"
Epictetus:	*Discourses,* Manual
Tacitus:	*Annals*
Ptolemy:	*Almagest*
Plotinus:	*The Enneads*
Augustine:	*Confessions*
Maimonides:	*Guide for the Perplexed*
Anselm:	*Proslogium*
Aquinas:	*Summa Theologiae*
Dante:	*Divine Comedy*
Chaucer:	*Canterbury Tales*
Machiavelli:	*The Prince, Discourses*
Copernicus:	*On the Revolutions of the Spheres*
Kepler:	*Epitome IV*
Livy:	*Early History of Rome*
Palestrina:	*Missa Papae Marcelli*
Montaigne:	Essays
Viète:	*Introduction to the Analytical Art*
Bacon:	*Novum Organum*
Shakespeare:	*Richard II, Henry IV, The Tempest, As You Like It, Hamlet, Othello, Macbeth, King Lear,* and Sonnets
Poems by:	Marvell, Donne, and other 16th- and 17th-century poets
Descartes:	*Geometry, Discourse on Method*
Pascal:	*Generation of Conic Sections*
Bach:	*St. Matthew Passion, Inventions*
Haydn:	Quartets
Mozart:	Operas
Beethoven:	Third Symphony
Schubert:	Songs
Monteverdi:	*L'Orfeo*
Stravinsky:	*Symphony of Psalms*

Junior Year Reading List

Cervantes:	*Don Quixote*
Galileo:	*Two New Sciences*
Hobbes:	*Leviathan*
Descartes:	*Meditations, Rules for the Direction of the Mind*
Milton:	*Paradise Lost*
La Rochefoucauld:	*Maximes*
La Fontaine:	*Fables*
Pascal:	*Pensées*
Huygens:	*Treatise on Light, On the Movement of Bodies by Impact*
Eliot:	*Middlemarch*
Spinoza:	*Theologico-Political Treatise*
Locke:	*Second Treatise of Government*
Racine:	*Phèdre*
Newton:	*Principia Mathematica*
Leibniz:	*Monadology, Discourse on Metaphysics,* Essay on Dynamics, Philosophical Essays, *Principles of Nature and Grace*
Swift:	*Gulliver's Travels*
Hume:	*Treatise of Human Nature*
Rousseau:	*Social Contract, The Origin of Inequality*
Molière:	*Le Misanthrope*
Adam Smith:	*Wealth of Nations*
Kant:	*Critique of Pure Reason, Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*
Mozart:	*Don Giovanni*
Austen:	*Pride and Prejudice, Emma*
Hawthorne:	*The Scarlett Letter*
Dedekind:	*Essays on the Theory of Numbers*
	Articles of Confederation, Declaration of Independence, Constitution of the United States of America
Hamilton, Jay, and Madison:	*The Federalist*
Twain:	*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
Wordsworth:	The Two-Part Prelude of *1799*
Essays by:	Young, Taylor, Euler, D. Bernoulli, Ørsted, Ampère, Faraday, Maxwell

Senior Year Reading List

Supreme Court Opinions	
Goethe:	*Faust*
Darwin:	*Origin of Species*
Hegel:	*Phenomenology of Mind,* "Logic" (from the *Encyclopedia*)
Lobachevsky:	*Theory of Parallels*
Kafka:	*The Metamorphosis*
Plato:	*Phaedrus*
Tocqueville:	*Democracy in America*
Documents from American History	
Hamilton, Jay, and Madison	*The Federalist*
Lincoln:	Selected speeches
F. Douglass:	Selected speeches
Kierkegaard:	*Philosophical Fragments, Fear and Trembling*
Wagner:	*Tristan and Isolde*
Marx:	*Capital, Political and Economic Manuscripts of 1844, The German Ideology*
Dostoevsky:	*Brothers Karamazov*
Tolstoy:	*War and Peace*
Melville:	*Benito Cereno*
O'Connor:	Selected stories
William James:	*Psychology, Briefer Course*
Nietzsche:	*Beyond Good and Evil*
Freud:	*Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*
Baudelaire:	*Les Fleurs du Mal*
Booker T. Washington:	Selected writings
Du Bois:	*The Souls of Black Folk*
Husserl:	*Crisis of the European Sciences*
Heidegger:	*Basic Writings*
Einstein:	Selected papers
Conrad:	*Heart of Darkness*
Faulkner:	*Go Down Moses*
Flaubert:	*Un Coeur Simple*
Woolf:	*Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse*
Poems by:	Yeats, T. S. Eliot, Wallace Stevens, Valéry, Rimbaud
Essays by:	Faraday, J. J. Thomson, Millikan, Minkowski, Rutherford, Davisson, Schrödinger, Bohr, de Broglie, Heisenberg, Mendel, Boveri, Sutton, Morgan, Beadle & Tatum, Sussman, Watson & Crick, Jacob & Monod, Hardy

Recent preceptorial books have included:

For seven weeks in junior and senior years, seminar is suspended so that students may choose elective classes called preceptorials.

Marquez:	*One Hundred Years of Solitude*
Russell:	*An Introduction to Mathematical Philosophy*
Shakespeare:	*Measure for Measure*
Laozi:	*Daodejing*
Hegel:	*Philosophy of Nature*
Melville:	*Moby Dick*
O'Connor:	*Wise Blood*
Gibbon:	*The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*
Heidegger:	*What is Metaphysics?*
Proust:	*Remembrance of Things Past*
Nietzsche:	*Gay Science*
Arendt:	*The Human Condition*
James:	*The Portrait of a Lady*
Dostoevsky:	*The Devils*
Avicenna:	*The Metaphysics*
Zhuangzi:	*Zhuangzi*
Flaubert:	*Madame Bovary*
Bach:	St. Matthew Passion
Feynman:	*QED*
Camus:	*The Stranger*
Borges:	*Ficciones*
Lorenz:	*Studies in Animal and Human Behavior*
Essays, Poetry, Music, and Art by:	Einstein, Manet, Al-Farabi, Dickinson, Al-Razi, Locke, Voltaire, Ibn Majja, Duchamp, Ibn Sina, Hill, Hume, Al-Ghazali, Rousseau, Ibn Tufayl, Montaigne, Ibn Rushd, Herbert, Donne, Hopkins, Stravinsky